

CLAIMS

We claim:

1 1. A method for printing information at a remote location, comprising:
2 establishing a network connection at a remote location;
3 receiving a list of printing devices communicatively coupled to a print service
4 available to a mobile-computing device;
5 requesting a print device context responsive to a printer selected from the list
6 of printing devices;
7 using an application resident on the mobile-computing device to render
8 information to the print device context, wherein the application generates a plurality
9 of device commands responsive to the information to be printed; and
10 forwarding the device commands to the print service, wherein the print
11 service renders the device commands against the printer.

1 2. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
2 intercepting the device commands;
3 generating an intermediate format; and
4 rendering the intermediate format before the step of forwarding.

1 3. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
2 receiving a common driver from the print service.

1 4. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
2 receiving a printer status from the print service.

1 5. The method of claim 4, further comprising:
2 forwarding the printer status to the application.

1 6. A computer-readable medium having stored thereon an executable
2 instruction set, the instruction set, when executed by a processor, directs the processor
3 to perform a method comprising:

4 sensing a change of connection status between a mobile-computing device and
5 a wireless access device coupled to a local area network;

6 establishing a communication session with a print service accessible via the
7 local area network when the change of connection status indicates that the mobile-
8 computing device has established a communication session with the wireless access
9 device; wherein during the communication session the mobile-computing device uses
10 a printer driver configured to generate a generic device context responsive to a
11 designated printer coupled to the print service;

12 using the printer driver to intercept graphics device commands generated by an
13 application operative on the mobile-computing device; and

14 forwarding the graphics device commands to the print service, wherein the
15 print service renders the graphics device commands against the designated printer.

1 7. The computer-readable medium of claim 6, wherein using the printer
2 driver comprises generating an intermediate format and rendering the intermediate
3 format before forwarding the graphics device commands.

1 8. The computer-readable medium of claim 6, wherein during the
2 communication session, the mobile-computing device receives a common driver from
3 the print service.

1 9. The computer-readable medium of claim 6, further comprising:
2 receiving a printer status from the print service.

1 10. The computer-readable medium of claim 6, further comprising:
2 forwarding the printer status to the application.

1 11. The computer-readable medium of claim 6, further comprising:
2 displaying information indicative of a printing device available to the mobile-
3 computing device.

1 12. The computer-readable medium of claim 6, further comprising:
2 reporting information indicative of the condition of pending print tasks.

1 13. The computer-readable medium of claim 6, further comprising:
2 identifying a default device for print requests originating within the mobile-
3 computing device.

1 14. The computer-readable medium of claim 6, further comprising:
2 reconfiguring the mobile-computing device in accordance with indicia of the
3 default device when the change of connection status indicates that the communication
4 session with the wireless access device has terminated.

1 15. A mobile-computing device, comprising:
2 means for responding to a change of connection status between a mobile-
3 computing device and a wireless access device communicatively coupled to a print
4 service;
5 means for establishing a communication session with the print service when
6 the change of connection status indicates that the mobile-computing device has
7 established a connection with the wireless access device, wherein during the
8 communication session the mobile-computing device uses a printer driver configured
9 to generate a generic device context responsive to a printer coupled to the print
10 service;
11 means for intercepting graphics device commands generated by an application
12 operative of the mobile-communication device; and
13 means for forwarding the graphics device commands to the print service,
14 wherein the print service renders the graphics device commands in accordance with
15 the printer.

1 16. The mobile-computing device of claim 15, wherein the means for
2 establishing a communication session with the print service comprises an application
3 program.

1 17. The mobile-computing device of claim 15, wherein the means for
2 intercepting graphics device commands comprises a printer driver.

1 18. The mobile-computing device of claim 15, wherein the means for
2 establishing a communication session further comprises means for receiving a
3 common driver.

1 19. The mobile-computing device of claim 15, further comprising:
2 print task initialization means for receiving a user-selected input indicative of
3 content desired to be printed by the printing device.

1 20. The mobile-computing device of claim 19, further comprising:
2 monitoring means for observing the condition of pending print tasks.

1 21. A mobile-computing apparatus, comprising:
2 a processor;
3 a memory coupled to the processor having stored therein a driver comprising:
4 a communication interface including:
5 an application interface for communicatively coupling the
6 driver to an application executing within the processor; and
7 a print service interface for communicatively coupling the
8 driver to a print service wirelessly coupled to the mobile-computing apparatus;
9 an interceptor coupled to the communication interface, the interceptor
10 configured to identify and forward graphics device commands issued by the
11 application; and
12 a formatter coupled to the interceptor, wherein when the formatter is
13 enabled, the formatter renders information desired to be printed from the mobile-
14 communication device to an intermediate format communicated to the print service.

1 22. The apparatus of claim 21, wherein when the formatter is disabled, the
2 interceptor forwards the graphics device commands to the print service for rendering
3 via a printer driver compatible with a select printer coupled to the print service.

1 23. The apparatus of claim 21, further comprising:
2 a message handler configured to receive indicia of a printer status.

1 24. The apparatus of claim 23, wherein the message handler is configured
2 to forward the printer status via the application interface to the application.